GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2406
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2006
STARVATION DEATHS
Barman Shri Ranen

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court of India had directed the West Bengal State Human Rights Commission to verify reports of wide spread starvation deaths in several villages in Murshidabad district of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure availability of adequate quantity nutritious food to people living below the poverty line in the said district in order to avoid further deaths due to starvation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): The Government of West Bengal has reported that issuance of such directions by the Supreme Court of India have not come to their notice nor they have received any reference from West Bengal State Human Rights Commission in this regard. Moreover, the State Government has reported no starvation death.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): To ensure food security to the people living below poverty line, a quantity of 15.88 lakh MT of rice, 45.12 lakh MT of wheat under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and 6.20 lakh MT of rice and 0.42 lakh MT of wheat under various food based welfare schemes was allocated to State Government of West Bengal during the year 2003-2004. For the year 2004-2005, 15.88 lakh MT of rice, 45.12 lakh MT of wheat under TPDS and 7.88 lakh MT of rice and 0.41 lakh MT of wheat under various Welfare Schemes and for 2005-06 (upto January, 2006) 25.04 lakh MT of rice and 25.78 lakh of wheat under TPDS and 5.12 lakh MT of rice and 0.17 lakh of wheat was allocated to the State Government under various welfare schemes for further distribution in the Districts including Murshidabad.